

REMARKS

Claim 22 is added, and claims 1-22 are pending upon entry of the present amendment.

In the specification, paragraph [0000.1] has been added to recite the claim of priority.

In amended Fig. 12, the statement – Prior Art – has been added. A replacement sheet containing Fig. 12 is attached hereto.

Claim 8 stands objected to because of the use of the term “surfboard.” Claim 8 is amended to address this objection.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,116,736 to Sanson et al. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 7, 9 and 17, as presently recited, are not anticipated by Sanson.

Claim 1, and by dependency claims 2-4, 7 and 9, presently recite that the upper and lower sheets of material are formed to the interior of a first mold cavity to form a shell, and the shell is prevented from substantially deforming during filling with an expandable material by inserting the shell into a second mold cavity different from the first mold cavity. Claim 17 presently recites means for forming at least two sheets of material to the interior of a first mold cavity to form a shell and means for filling the shell with an expandable material in a second mold cavity. Support for the present amendments to claims 1 and 17 can be found, for example, at page 10, lines 2-6, of the present application.

Sanson does not disclose the use of a first mold associated with forming and a second mold associated with filling. Instead, Sanson discloses the use of a single mold for both the forming and filling operations. Indeed, Sanson explicitly teaches away from the use of multiple molds by describing such methods as being disadvantageous: “A disadvantage of this arrangement lies in the fact that a separate operation and apparatus are required to provide the preliminary shaping of the sheets into their desired configured form, something which represents additional labor requirements and increased complexity of production equipment.” (Col. 1, ll. 43-49.)

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,423,000 to Teraoka. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is not

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anticipated by Terakoa.

The Office action identifies the polyurethane in hollow portion 54 of Terakoa as being the core, and first and second parisons 17 as being the sheets. However, the hollow portion 54 between the first and second parisons is only in a limited portion of the molded article, and does is not substantially filled, as presently recited in claim 19. Moreover, there is no disclosure in Terakoa of the polyurethane having residual compressive stresses providing structural rigidity to the parisons 17.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teraoka. Given the above discussion of claim 19, from which claim 21 depends, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is not unpatentable over Teraoka.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 10-16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanson in view of Teraoka. Given the above discussion of claim 1, from which claims 5, 6, 8, and 10-16 depend, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 6, 8, and 10-16 are not unpatentable over Sanson in view of Teraoka. In addition, given the above discussion of claim 19, from which claim 20 depends, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is not unpatentable over Sanson in view of Teraoka.

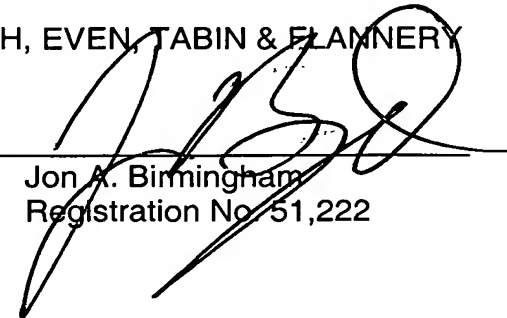
For the reasons set forth above, claims 1-21 are believed to be allowable, and reconsideration of claims 1-21 and allowance of claims 1-22 are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 12. This sheet, which includes Fig. 12, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 12. In Fig. 12, the description – Prior Art – has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet